

GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

Markets Update

A PUBLICATION OF FORESTETHICS AND THE RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK

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The coastal temperate rainforest is a globally rare ecosystem that once covered 60 million acres from Northern California to Alaska. More than half of the original forest cover has been logged, and in California, Oregon and Washington states, large-scale forest conservation can no longer occur.

Coastal temperate rainforests are more endangered than tropical rainforests.

This newsletter monitors the implementation of the April 4, 2001 agreement to protect British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest, and gauges progress made against key benchmarks. It has been created by ForestEthics and Rainforest Action Network to provide customers of BC forest products and the public with current and relevant information about the agreement and related developments.

"Healthy, fully functioning ecosystems provide the basis for sustaining communities, economies, cultures and the quality of human life. Therefore, ecological sustainability is fundamental to land and marine management."
~ from the April 4, 2001 government-to-government protocol, signed by the province and many First Nations.



New clearcut by West Fraser Timber along Douglas Channel, BC's Central Coast

CREDIT: David Suzuki Foundation

A Clearcut Issue: Poor Logging Practices Continue in the Great Bear Rainforest

The Great Bear Rainforest Agreement of 2001 was a historic first step in a new approach to managing the land that protects a region of global ecological significance and builds sustainable economic opportunities for communities that live there.

A YEAR AND A HALF LATER, the complex planning process underway finds internationally renowned scientists and economists, First Nations leaders and environmentalists, logging industry representatives and government administrators all working together to create a lasting solution. At the core of the agreement is protection of large tracts of some of the last remaining original and intact coastal temperate rainforest on the planet. What's more, everyone committed to this process agreed that logging practices must be ecologically sustainable throughout BC's Central Coast, North Coast, and Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands).

But what does logging look like now, on the ground? To monitor

progress, scientists from the David Suzuki Foundation, Forest Watch of BC and Raincoast Conservation Society are in the process of analysing more than 200 logging permits submitted after the April 4, 2001 agreement. The study includes visiting a random sample of logging sites to assess practices in five areas of the Great Bear Rainforest. The results are troubling.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- by area, the predominant method of logging planned in the region is conventional clearcutting;
- western red cedar is being logged at unsustainable levels;
- patches of trees retained after logging to provide protection to some streams and

for wildlife habitat are blowing down;

- logging continues to occur primarily in old-growth forests.

With a little more than a year left before land-use planning tables are scheduled to end, ForestEthics and Rainforest Action Network, among other environmental organizations, are concerned that some coastal logging companies are continuing with the status quo, rather than moving toward ecosystem-based management on the ground.

The final report will be available soon. For more information, go to: www.davidsuzuki.org.

For up-to-date information on the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement, go to: www.savethegreatbear.org

INSIDE:
Key benchmarks of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement; Endangered Forests report; new proposed forestry code; the value of cedar

KEY BENCHMARKS

ForestEthics and Rainforest Action Network developed a series of benchmarks to track progress in implementing the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement of 2001. We list a few key benchmarks here.

PROTECTION

Have the protection areas agreed to in the provincial government's April 4, 2001 announcement been formalized through Orders in Council?

In May, BC's Liberal government committed to protecting 20 rainforest valleys, but that commitment is temporary until July 2003 – a considerable step back from the province's earlier commitment to permanently protect all 20 valleys from industrial logging. This is because the government is proceeding very slowly with First Nations consultations. Furthermore, a significant loophole also exists in this temporary protection because roads may be constructed through these 'protected' areas to access

mining and logging operations beyond them.

ECO-PLANNING

Has the government reduced the rate of logging in the immediate term to take into account new protected areas and deferrals to ensure that logging pressure is not transferred to other sensitive areas while planning continues?

Logging has temporarily been reduced in the region by 22% as a result of continuing deferrals in proposed Protected Areas and Option Areas.

Does land-use planning continue to allow clearcut logging of old growth forests?

As reports from scientists with the David Suzuki Foundation and Forest Watch indicate, clearcut logging continues in the Great Bear Rainforest. The Coast

Information Team (CIT) has been tasked to define ecosystem-based management and create an applicable system for the BC Coast. This process is now underway.

CREDIBLE SCIENCE

Does the CIT have an arms-length standing from all parties? Will the land-use planning tables have adequate time to incorporate the CIT's advice into their decision-making?

This independent panel is now in place and working to inform the various planning processes currently underway in the Great Bear Rainforest. However, government is still demonstrating little flexibility over land-use planning deadlines, meaning that recommendations from the CIT may not be available in time

to be adequately incorporated into land-use planning.

Is the CIT evaluating regional economic options for BC's rainforests, in addition to logging?

The CIT's purpose is to provide a framework for implementing ecosystem-based management. This will include three main analyses: biodiversity conservation, cultural and social practices, and sustainable economic development.

MANAGING CHANGE

Are there transition funds and plans for communities, workers and contractors to adapt to change?

In May, government finally announced that \$35 million in transition funds will be available for forest workers and local communities. They have now positioned the fund and applications will soon be considered.

For more information, go to: www.savethegreatbear.org and www.forestethics.org.

"Looking back on my career in the BC coastal forest sector, it seems so clear to me now what a powerful story Canada is in a position to tell on forestry and environmental issues."

~ Linda Coady, vice president, Weyerhaeuser, in *Truckloggers* magazine, Fall 2002

MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST AGREEMENT

Protection • Twenty large, old-growth valleys in the Great Bear Rainforest, totaling 1.5 million acres in area, were slated for protection from logging and development, and in a manner that respects First Nations rights and title.

- An additional 68 valleys, totaling 2.2 million acres, were placed under moratoria from logging.

Eco-planning • A new framework, ecosystem-based management, will be created to guide ongoing land-use planning and forest-management activities in the Great Bear Rainforest.

Credible Science • The Coast Information Team, an independent body of internationally respected scientists, community economic development practitioners, investment specialists, and First Nations and community representatives will develop recommendations on ecosystem-based management and economic alternatives.

Managing Change • The provincial government will establish financial mechanisms for economic diversification and managing economic change in the region.

First Nations Rights and Title • The province and eight coastal First Nations signed formal government-to-government protocols, which include endorsement of ecologically responsible forest practices and a framework for increasing environmentally responsible development and economic opportunities for First Nations.

In addition: • Logging companies that operate in the region agreed to change their practices and their levels of logging to reflect ecosystem-based management. This will set them on the road to gaining Forest Stewardship Council certification – the ultimate guarantee of acceptance in the global marketplace.

- ForestEthics and Rainforest Action Network, along with Greenpeace and the Sierra Club of British Columbia – suspended their international markets campaigns around the Great Bear Rainforest to focus on implementing the agreement and building long-term solutions for the region.

Canoeing Koeve River valley, a proposed Protected Area on BC's Central Coast.



The Value of Cedar

Bill Reid, a prominent artist and writer from Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands) joined with photographer Adelaide De Menil in 1971 to publish an influential book called *Out of the Silence*. Through images and poetry, they documented the enduring importance of carving cedar totem poles for the First Nations of the Northwest Coast. This art form had been silenced for decades due to laws prohibiting potlatches and other indigenous cultural practices of the Northwest Coast, and throughout Canada.

Today, the works of native artists like Reid are admired around the world.

However, industrial clearcut logging is threatening coastal First Nations' culture – particularly the importance of the western red cedar tree. For thousands of years, cedar has been utilized by First Nations for items like clothing, shelter, tools and transportation, as well as for artistic, ceremonial and spiritual purposes. Canoes, woven clothing, nets, twine, baskets, boxes and totem poles are only a few ways that cedar is used.

Cedar products are among the most valuable on the wood market, and the BC coast remains a major timber source.

Logging companies are now primarily cutting old-growth cedar, and at an increasing rate. This cedar "high-grading" is cause for mounting concern to First Nations and environmentalists, including ForestEthics and Rainforest Action Network. For example, according to scientific analysis by the Heiltsuk Nation of BC's Central Coast, at the current rate of logging, most of the operable old-growth cedar forest in the Heiltsuk Territory will be gone in as little as 25 years.

ForestEthics and Rainforest Action Network are monitoring the situation and will keep the public and BC's forest products customers informed.



Haida totem poles in Skidegate, Haida Gwaii.

CREDIT: Duane Penitice/Norradic Visions

Oh, the cedar tree!

If mankind in his infancy
had prayed for the perfect substance
for all material and aesthetic needs,
an indulgent god could have provided
nothing better. Beautiful in itself,
with a magnificent flared base
tapering suddenly to a tall, straight trunk
wrapped in reddish brown bark,
like a great coat of gentle fur,
gracefully sweeping boughs,
soft feathery fronds of gray green needles.
Huge some of these cedars,
five hundred years of slow growth,
towering from their massive bases. [...]

When steamed
it will bend without breaking.
It will make houses and boats
and boxes and cooking pots.
Its bark will make mats,
even clothing.
With a few bits
of sharpened stone and antler,
with some beaver teeth
and a lot of time,
with later on a bit of iron,
you can build from the cedar tree
the exterior trappings
of one of the world's great cultures.

Above all,
you can build totem poles,
and the people of the Northwest Coast
built them in profusion:
forests of sculptured columns
between their houses and the sea,
proudly announcing to all
the heraldic past of those who dwelt there. [...]

Only a handful of poles
now stand
or more frequently lie,
in the damp, lush forests.
Like the fallen trees
they lie beside,
they have become
the life-blood of younger trees
growing from their trunks.
In a scene subdued
by a magnificent moss covering
and by silence,
they return to the forest
that gave them birth.

~ from *Out of the Silence*, by Bill Reid

FOREST NEWS IN BRIEF

PROPOSED FORESTRY CODE WOULD DAMAGE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

BC's Liberal government will soon replace the province's Forest Practices Code with a "Results-Based Code" – legislation that would weaken or eliminate environmental policies, and create obstacles to implementing the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement. New legislation would include: setting "timber targets" that would give logging priority over other environmental values, deregulating logging practices and decreasing planning requirements. The logging industry is intimately involved in the consultation process, while environmental organizations – and BC's citizens – have essentially been shut out. Environmental organizations have warned the

BC government that this legislation could once again earn BC "buyer beware" status. For more information, go to www.wcel.org. **NEW REPORT ON BC'S ENDANGERED FORESTS** This fall, ForestEthics will release a new report which reframes the forest conservation agenda in terms of "Endangered Forests" and gives examples of where Endangered Forests are found in British Columbia. The marketplace has pledged to not purchase products found in Endangered Forests, and environmental organizations have developed a set of criteria for identifying where such forests are. These forests must now be identified, mapped and protected, if British Columbia is to retain US market share. The report

also discusses positive directions such as legal establishment of First Nations rights and title, the promise of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification and community-controlled models of applied ecosystem-based management. The report is scheduled for release in late November and will be available at www.forestethics.org.

NEW FSC STANDARDS FOR BC - The draft FSC standard under development for British Columbia was recently endorsed by the FSC-BC steering committee and subsequently by FSC Canada. As we go to press, the standard awaits final approval by FSC International in Oaxaca, Mexico. For more information, go to: www.fsc-bc.org.

Who We Are

ForestEthics was founded in 1994 as the Clayoquot Rainforest Coalition (CRC). In 1996, the CRC was a key player in protecting much of Clayoquot Sound from logging. The Clayoquot Rainforest Coalition then expanded its mission to seek protection of the entire coastal rainforest of British Columbia. During the campaign, the coalition was restructured and ForestEthics was created as an independent organization.

After years of intense campaigning, ForestEthics was again a key player in another victory for British Columbia's coastal rainforest, which led to phase one of one of the largest conservation agreements protecting temperate rainforests - the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement.

Our mission is now the protection of all endangered forests by redirecting markets toward ecologically sustainable alternatives. Our goals include conservation-based economic diversification in forest-dependent communities, increased decision-making power for indigenous communities and a reform of forest practices, including implementation of ecosystem-based management in coastal British Columbia.

Rainforest Action Network

(RAN) was established in 1985 to protect the earth's rainforests and support the rights of rainforest inhabitants through education, grassroots organizing, and non-violent direct action. For the past several years, RAN has focused on the home construction and home improvement retail industries in an attempt to foster the protection of endangered forests and the adoption of sustainable forestry practices. In a partnership with dozens of grassroots and national environmental organizations, RAN has persuaded Home Depot – and more than 25 percent of the U.S. lumber market – to eliminate wood from endangered forests and give preference to ecologically sustainable alternatives.

FORESTETHICS



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PROTECTING WHAT'S LEFT

- Nearly 80% of the world's large areas of old growth and endangered forests have already been destroyed. Contact us at www.forestethics.org and www.ran.org to find out how you can ensure your purchasing policies help protect what's left.
- ForestEthics and the Rainforest Action Network would like to thank progressive companies that have adopted policies that help protect the world's remaining old growth and endangered forests. We would specifically like to thank the customers of B.C. forest products who were instrumental in helping to halt the destruction of the Great Bear Rainforest.
- We ask that you keep a watchful eye on the process of implementing the pioneering agreements in British Columbia in order to help us ensure a lasting solution that both protects biodiversity and benefits local communities.



Humpback whales feeding, BC's North Coast.

CREDIT: Duane Prentice/Nomadic Visions

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